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COUNTRY Lebanon/Syria/Palestine

DATE DISTR. 25 October 1948

SUBJECT Activity of Soviet Officials among
Palestinian Refugees in Syria and Lebanon

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1. Soviet diplomats in Beirut and Damascus, including Vladimir Ivanov, Dimitri Malishev, and Hanad Sultanov, as well as Madame Hilda, have been concentrating their efforts in an attempt to convince Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Syria of Russian sympathy for their plight, saying that Russia is the only country that can help them. In addition to these propagandists, the Soviets are assigning "eyes" and observers to the refugee groups.

2. Victor Khangulov, Charge d'Affaires of the Soviet Legation in Beirut, and Isaac Isagulov, Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in Damascus, have contacted (through other Soviet officials and Lebanese and Syrian Communist Party leaders) Bulus Farah and Tawfiq Tawbi, leaders of the Communist Party in Haifa who are still in communication with the Jews. Farah and Tawbi have been negotiating, particularly with the Histadruth, for the return to areas now occupied by the Jews, of refugees who have been influenced by Soviet propaganda. Source states that a wave of faith in Communism and in Soviet Russia is spreading among the refugees.

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